



Committee: Environment & Transportation

Testimony on: SB528-Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022

Organization: Greenbelt Climate Action Network

Submitting: Maureen Fine

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: March 24, 2022

Dear Chairman and Committee Members:

The Greenbelt Climate Action Network (GCAN) is writing in support of SB528-Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022.

GCAN's mission is to educate residents about climate change, “systemic” solutions, how they can change their behaviors to be more sustainable, and take personal, local, systemic, and political action.

The Climate Crisis will only get worse, and we’re running out of time. EPA tells us the next decades will bring Maryland increased inland and coastal flooding; it will disrupt fishing and farming; and it will increase risks to human health. Rising temperatures have already weakened our seafood and tourism industries. And, Maryland ranks #4 in the nation when it comes to premature deaths from dirty energy created pollution.

We want Maryland to be a Climate Leader. **SB528 is the big, bold climate solution that Maryland needs!** It increases our greenhouse gas reduction targets to 60% by 2030 and net zero by 2045. It establishes and provides an initial appropriation for a Climate Catalytic Capital Fund to fund more climate pollution reduction programs focused on investments in Environmental Justice communities. It also establishes a Just Transition Employment and Retraining Task Force, electrifies the state vehicle fleet, and funds a net zero school program.

For the buildings sector, it establishes high-electrification construction code for new building beginning in 2023, so we start building greener buildings, and also establishes a Building Emissions Performance Standard for buildings 25,000 sq. ft and larger that reaches 20% reductions in 2030, 40% by 2035, and Net-zero by 2040. Finally, it creates an inter-agency task force to develop a plan to fund holistic retrofits in the building sector to meet the new 2030 and 2045 state greenhouse gas reduction targets. **These provisions have been removed but we hope they will be added back in.**

For all these reasons, we recommend a FAVORABLE report for SB528- Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 in committee.

Sincerely,
Maureen Fine
Volunteer
Greenbelt Climate Action Network